Tri-Service Assessment Initiative
Executive Overview

The Tri-Service Assessment Initiative (TAI) is an OSD and Service-sponsored program with two primary objectives:

- Provide assistance directly to DoD program managers to help them identify and correct program issues that impact overall program performance

- Provide information directly to DoD enterprise managers about recurring systemic issues that impact performance across the DoD program base

Since its inception in 1999, TAI has focused on providing PMs with independent expert program reviews to assess program status, improve program effectiveness, and support critical decisions regarding program direction and trade-offs. These assessments provide a basis for both immediate and long-term performance improvements to the individual programs. TAI has developed and applied its assessment methodology for over 40 assessments across DoD.

To meet it second objective, TAI has developed a capability to perform analysis of systemic issues and performance trends that occur across the total assessed program base. This cross-program analysis provides the DoD Enterprise with objective insight into recurring program performance issues, cause and effect characterizations, and focus areas for achieve overall acquisition improvement efforts. All systemic analysis findings are generic and do not refer to specific TAI-assessed programs.

TAI is sponsored by the OUSD(AT&L) Software-Intensive Systems office, with management oversight from the Services, and direct technical support from the Army (TACOM-ARDEC). Core operations and analysis funding is provided by TAI sponsors; PMs fund the individual assessments (team travel and labor). The management and technical characteristics of the TAI initiative are unique and include the following:

- "Program Performance First" strategy
    - Program team is the primary customer
    - All efforts focused on improving program performance
    - Assessment team expertise tailored to meet program issues and risks
    - Assessment process designed to minimize impact on program team

- Non-Attribution policy
    - Fact-based information
    - Teams comply with non-disclosure agreements
    - Program Manager retains assessment results

- Use of the "Total" DoD Capability
    - Assessment and analysis teams leverage expertise across DoD, Services, FFRDCs, industry, agencies, and universities
    - Multi-Service management and oversight

- Use of existing and newly developed tools and technologies

- "Information Driven" assessment and analysis
  - Comprehensive scope of issues addressed from multiple perspectives
  - Active analysis of DoD acquisition and technology trends and lessons learned

- Use of objective risk and measurement -based disciplines and technologies
  - Integrated assessment process and issue architecture
  - Consistent risk-based methodology used across all program assessments
  - Analysis focused on identification of causative performance issues
  - Strict approach to data management and integrity

- Value added products
  - Prioritized issues, their interrelationships and associated risks
  - Actionable recommendations and post assessment briefing support
  - Systemic analysis products based upon actual assessment data
  - Directed analysis in response to sponsor information needs

- Transition partnering strategy
  - Agreements with DoD and Industry organizations that will perform TAI-based assessments
  - Increase the ability to respond to PM assessment needs
  - Increase TAI systemic analysis program base
  - Continuous improvement of TAI methodology with transition partner expertise

For further information about participating on TAI teams, obtaining TAI products, or to be a transition partner, please contact us at 703-602-0851x157.

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